## **Child Protective Proceedings Benchbook**

A Guide to Abuse and Neglect Cases THIRD EDITION



**Michigan Judicial Institute** 

By Tobin L. Miller, J.D.

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The research done on this benchbook is current through April 1, 2006. This benchbook is not intended to be an authoritative statement by the Justices of the Michigan Supreme Court regarding any of the substantive issues discussed. However, it does represent the consensus of the author and the advisory committee members regarding these issues.

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Although this benchbook is primarily intended for use by judges and referees presiding over child protective proceedings in the Family Division of Circuit Court, it also contains information useful to all participants in the child protection system in Michigan. It is hoped that this benchbook will be of use to anyone who participates in that system, and that this benchbook will help those dedicated to improving the lives of Michigan's children.

Work on the first edition of this benchbook was overseen by an Advisory Committee comprised of judges, referees, court administrators, social services administrators, prosecutors, private attorneys, and other experts involved in the child protection system in Michigan. Advisory Committee members assisted the author in selecting topics for discussion and organizing the material in the benchbook. They also spent many hours reviewing those portions of the text that addressed their areas of expertise. The Michigan Judicial Institute gratefully acknowledges the time, helpful advice, and expertise contributed by the Advisory Committee members. The Advisory Committee members for the first edition were:

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